

Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION ARA-10

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R 140808Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1812
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO

S E C R E T BONN 15375

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, CI, GR, GW
SUBJECT: FRG ARMS POLICY REGARDING CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 8820 DTG 092015Z SEP 76

1. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FRG "MAY HAVE LOOKED THE OTHER WAY REGARDING A WEAPONS TRANSFER BENEFITING CHILE AT A TOUCHY MOMENT IN GERMAN POLITICS." CHILE IS STILL A TOUCHY SUBJECT DOMESTICALLY IN THE FRG AS ILLUSTRATED BY AN INCIDENT AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY IN HAMBURG IN JULY WHEN A GUEST CHILEAN OFFICER (LTC HELMUT KRAUSHAAR) DELIVERED A LECTURE DEFENDING THE PINOCHET REGIME. DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER WAS FORCED TO INTERVENE AFTER THE PRESS REPORTED THE COLONEL'S REMARKS AND ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION. THERE WERE UNOFFICIAL REPORTS EMANATING FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY THAT NO MORE CHILEANS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ACADEMY. THE BISHOP FREMZ CASE (BONN 16895, OCT 75) ALSO CONTINUES TO SIMMER, AND THE FACTORS

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BEHIND CANCELLATION OF A CHILEAN FOLK CONCERT LAST

FEBRUARY (DUSSELDORF 145) STILL EXIST. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVE VIEW WHICH STILL PREVAILS IN THE FRG REGARDING CHILE, IT APPEARS TO BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE FRG WOULD SANCTION ANY ARMS DEAL WITH CHILE, ESPECIALLY BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 3.

2. THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY REGARDING THE MAMBA ANTI-TANK MISSILE IS THAT THIS WEAPON IS IN PRODUCTION BUT NOT FOR THE FRG ARMED FORCES. FURTHER, AN EMBASSY SOURCE LEARNED FROM A HIGH LEVEL MBB (MESSERSCHMIDT) EXECUTIVE THAT MAMBA HAS BEEN EXPORTED TO NON-NATO MEMBERS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED SHIPMENT TO CHILE. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT MAMBA COULD APPEAR IN CHILE BY MEANS OF TRANS-SHIPMENT.

3. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME OLD COBRA ANTI-TANK MISSILES MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS MARKET, ESPECIALLY AS BRAZIL, ITALY, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY ARE LICENSED TO PRODUCE THE SYSTEM. LAST YEAR THE GERMANS PROVIDED SUCH WEAPONS TO THE GREEKS AS EXCESS MATERIAL AFTER OBTAINING U.S. PERMISSION TO DO SO. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT COBRAS MIGHT HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO CHILE VIA UNSCRUPULOUS PRIVATE ARMS DEALERS.

HILLENBRAND

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